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Alida Muller-Wehlau Named ITA "Player To Watch"

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Alida Muller-Wehlau Named ITA "Player To Watch"





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ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Fla. - The Armstrong Atlantic State men's and women's tennis teams begin their chase for the "three-peat" of NCAA DII National Championships on Wednesday at Sanlando Park in Altamonte Springs, Fla.

Tuesday night, the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) held its annual awards banquet and several honors were bestowed upon AASU players and coaches. Junior **Alida Muller-Wehlau** was named the ITA's National "Player To Watch," the fourth AASU player to ever earn the honor, which is given to a player in their second or third year at an institution. Muller-Wehlau joins Luisa Cowper (2004), Dziyana Nazaruk (2005) and Iuliia Stupak (2006) as Lady Pirates to earn the national honor.

The AASU coaching staff each earned regional honors as well. Head coach Simon Earnshaw was named the ITA's Southeast Region Men's Tennis Coach of the Year, while assistant coach David Secker was named the Southeast Region Assistant Coach of the Year for a second straight year.

The top-ranked and undefeated AASU women will hit the courts bright and early on Wednesday morning, facing No. 20-ranked Northeastern State out of Oklahoma. The two teams last met on April 5, 2008, a 9-0 victory by the Lady Pirates over the Riverhawks. AASU is searching for its sixth NCAA DII National Championship and third straight - only three other schools have ever won three straight DII national championships, Chattanooga (1983-85), SIU Edwardsville (1986-89) and BYU-Hawaii (2002-04).

Meanwhile, the second-ranked AASU men take on Kutztown at 4 p.m. on Wednesday in Round of 16 action. AASU last faced Kutztown on March 5, 2009, a 9-0 win in Savannah over the Golden Bears. Like the women, the AASU men are trying to become just the fourth school to win three straight NCAA DII Championships - UC Irvine (1970-72), SIU Edwardsville (1978-84) and Lander (1993-2000).

Only one other school in the history of the NCAA has owned three straight men's and women's tennis championships in the same year - Stanford, who captured men's and women's titles in 1988-1990.

You can follow along with all the action from the 2010 NCAA Division II Tennis Championships via the **AASU Tennis 2010 blog** or from **Rollins' Championship Site**.



ARMSTRONG STATE UNIVERSITY

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